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Bush Says Carter Will Probably Be 1980 Demo Choice

By JOE LEDLIE

Former Republican National Chairman George Bush says Jimmy Carter will probably be the Democratic nominee in 1980, but he's not so sure about who the Republican candidate will be.



GEORGE BUSH

The Texan says he will concentrate on campaigning for other Republicans, and if that serves his presidential plans, fine. "I will make an early determination on that in 1979," he said in an interview last week with The Atlanta Journal-Constitution.

Carter has pulled off a political coup with the Camp David agreement on the Middle East, says Bush, but still has failed to confront the nation's economic problems.

In that area, says Bush, the country should promote tax cuts, erase government jobs when they are vacated by retirement, and hold the line on spending.

Bush, a former director of the Central Intelligence Agency, said he knew John Paisley, the CIA employee found shot to death in a Maryland river last week.

Though expressing horror at the death, he said it was not yet determined that the death was related to Paisley's work at the agency.

EXCERPT:

Q. As CIA director, did you know John Paisley, the CIA consultant and former agent who was found shot to death and his body weighed down in a Maryland river last week?

A. I had met him, yeah.

Q. Did you work with him closely?

A. No, not really closely. He was doing some consulting on the analytical side.

Q. What was your reaction to hearing of this kind of thing happening on American shores?

A. Horror.

Q. Is it a unique case, or have there been others like it in this country?

A. It's unique as far as I know. My view is to withhold an assessment until they find out what's happened. I noticed his family said he had not been under any great tension. I really shouldn't speculate.

Q. Are the American people naive to think that this kind of thing might not be happening in the world today?

A. What kind of thing?

Q. An intelligence-related killing.

A. I'm not going to respond to that because I don't know that that's the case here. Without responding to the question, I would say . . . there is a fundamental underpinning of support for the concept of having an intelligence service that is second to none.